

## **May 15, 2012 Bulletin 120 Report**

The May 15, 2012, Bulletin 120 (B120) Update has been completed and it is posted at <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/iodir?s=b120up> . The forecast includes observed conditions through the morning of May 15, 2012.

### **Next Update:**

The next forecast will be the Bulletin 120 Update for conditions on May 22, 2012. It will be available on May 24, 2012.

### **Forecast Summary:**

Considering the rivers forecasted in the B120 update, the projected median April-July runoff in the major Sierra river basins ranges from 45 percent of normal on the Kern River to 92 percent of normal on the Inflow to Shasta Lake. Compared to our previous report, forecasts for the Inflow to Shasta Lake southward through the Yuba River have decreased one or two percent. Forecasts for the American River through the Merced, however, increased one to five percent due to higher than expected flows in May. South of the Merced River, the forecasts remained the same or dropped two percent compared to last week's forecast. The strong north to south difference in the expected flows continues. The percent of average forecasts for rivers north of the Mokelumne are 75 percent or greater. Yet, from the Stanislaus southward, the percents are less than 60 percent except for the Tule (69 percent).

### **Runoff:**

May unimpaired flows range between 54 percent of average for the Kern River and 89 percent of average for Inflow to Lake Shasta. The American River and rivers to the north are flowing at rates greater than 80 percent of normal. The rivers from the Stanislaus southward, however, are flowing at rates less than or equal to 70 percent of normal excluding the Kaweah and Tule rivers. These two rivers are flowing at rates close to 80 percent of average for May.

### **Precipitation:**

The Northern Sierra 8-Station Index gained nothing since last week's forecast. May's total-to-date remains at 0.2 inches which is only 10 percent of the average monthly total. The seasonal total through May 16 is 39.9 inches which is 86 percent of average-to-date. The San Joaquin 5-Station Index also had no gains in precipitation since the previous update so the total for May remains at zero. The seasonal total remains at 24 inches which is 63 percent of average-to-date. To accentuate the variability in California's precipitation patterns, note that last year at this time the Northern Sierra 8-Station Index was 65.6 inches and the San Joaquin 5-Station Index was 58.9 inches.

### **Snowpack:**

Regionally, the snow sensor data is indicating that the Northern Sierra, Central Sierra, and Southern Sierra snowpack are 31, 5, and 2 percent of their respective May 17 averages. The statewide snowpack average as of May 17 was only 2 inches which is 9 percent of the May 17 average. Since about mid-April, the rate of snow loss has been near normal in the central and southern Sierra. In the northern Sierra, however, the loss has been noticeably faster than normal.

### **Weather and Climate Outlook:**

The CNRFC 6-day QPF and Freezing Level Forecast, issued this morning, suggests dry conditions for the period except in the North Coast region where a total of up to one half inch may fall on Monday and

Tuesday. Freezing elevations will range between 10,000-14,500 feet for the Northern Sierra and 12,000-15,000 in the Central and Southern Sierra. The highest freezing elevations will be observed on Sunday or Monday.

The NWS Climate Prediction Center's (CPC) one-month (June) forecast updated May 17 indicates increased chances of above normal temperatures over all of the Sierra range. The same product suggests increased chances of below normal precipitation over the northern fifth of the state and equal chances elsewhere. The CPC three month (June, July, August) forecast, updated May 17, indicates the same temperature tendencies as the CPC one month forecast. The June-August precipitation forecast calls for equal chances of above and below normal precipitation over all of the Sierra.

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**Important Links:**

**Bulletin 120 Email Subscription Information**

To subscribe and un-subscribe to the B120 notification email  
<http://listhost2.water.ca.gov/mailman/listinfo/b120>.

**Water Supply Index (WSI) Email Subscription Information**

To subscribe and un-subscribe to the WSI notification email  
<http://listhost2.water.ca.gov/mailman/listinfo/WSI>

**Full Natural Flow Data:**

Daily FNF

[http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snowsurvey\\_ro/FNF](http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snowsurvey_ro/FNF)

Monthly FNF

[http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snowsurvey\\_ro/FNFSUM](http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snowsurvey_ro/FNFSUM)

Seasonal FNF

[http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snowsurvey\\_ro/FLOWOUT](http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snowsurvey_ro/FLOWOUT)

**Precipitation Data:**

Latest Northern Sierra 8-Station Precipitation Index

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/queryDaily?s=8SI&d=today>

Northern Sierra 8-Station Precipitation Tabulation

[http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/products/8-Stations\\_Tab.pdf](http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/products/8-Stations_Tab.pdf)

Latest San Joaquin 5-Station Precipitation Index

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/queryDaily?s=5SI&d=today>

San Joaquin 5-Station Precipitation Tabulation

[http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/products/5-Stations\\_Tab.pdf](http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/products/5-Stations_Tab.pdf)

WY Precipitation Summary

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/precip/PRECIPSUM>

**Snow Data:**

Latest Snow Sensor Report

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snow/PAGE6>

Latest Statewide Summary of Snow Water Equivalents

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snow/DLYSWEQ>

Monthly Snow Course Report

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snow/COURSES>

**Extended Regional Forecasts:**

California Nevada River Forecast Center 6 Day QPF and Snow Level Forecast

<http://www.cnrfc.noaa.gov/awipsProducts/RNOHD6RSA.php>

Climate Prediction Center One-Month Outlook Forecasts

<http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/products/predictions/30day/>

Climate Prediction Center Three-Month Outlook Forecasts

<http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/products/predictions/90day/>

**Drought Information:**

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

[http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert\\_assessment/seasonal\\_drought.html](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert_assessment/seasonal_drought.html)